

Draft Meeting Notes
LCR MSCP Steering Committee Conference Call
June 24, 2015

Attending Via Conference Call

Gretchen Baumgardner
Ron Derma
Greg Garnett
Jennifer Haley
Ned Hyduke
Bill Lamb
Tina Mozelewski
Colby Pellegrino
Laura Simonek
Ruth Valencia
Doyle Wilson

Perri Benemelis
Evelyn Erlandsen
Maureen George
Jayne Harkins
David Johnson
Renee Latu
Jessica Neuwerth
Larry Purcell
John Swett
Laura Vecerina

Linda Carbone
Lesley Fitzpatrick
Jessica Gwinn
Chris Harris
Kurumi Kuroda
Kara Mathews
Wade Noble
Carrie Ronning
Warren Turkett
David Vigil

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Introductions

The conference call was convened at 9:30 a.m. by John Swett. There were self-introductions of all attending. Chris Harris chaired the meeting.

Review of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed. An update on Planet Ranch was added by Evelyn Erlandsen. The agenda was amended and approved.

Public Comments

No public comments were offered.

Approve April 22, 2015 Meeting Notes

The April 22, 2015 meeting notes were approved. (Moved by Perri Benemelis, seconded by Jayne Harkins and adopted by consensus)

WORK PLAN AND BUDGET

Final Implementation Report, FY2016 Work Plan and Budget, FY 2014 Accomplishment Report

John Swett provided an overview of the changes that were made to the Final Implementation Report from comments received at the May Work Group meeting. He noted that the final

inflation rate had increased slightly from 1.386 to 1.387 thereby increasing required program contributions to \$30,741,468. The change in the inflation rate also resulted in adjustments to Work Tasks A1 and H2. The requested approval amount for the FY16 Work Plan is now \$39,080,018 which consists of \$34,980,018 in work tasks and a \$4,100,000 contribution to the land and water fund. The \$34,980,018 funding for work tasks includes \$8,300,000 for securing the lease for Planet Ranch.

Resolution 15-003 “Review and Recommendation FY2016 Work Plan and Budget, FY2014 Accomplishment Report”

“Move that the LCR MSCP Steering Committee approve, by consensus, the *Final Implementation Report, Fiscal Year 2016 Work Plan and Budget, Fiscal Year 2014 Accomplishment Report* for \$39,080,018 and encourage the LCR MSCP Program Manager to submit the approved Final Implementation Report to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for consistency review.

(Moved by Perri Benemelis, seconded by Ruth Valencia, and approved by consensus)

PROCESS UPDATES

Northern Mexican gartersnake: John Swett noted that a Northern Mexican gartersnake was found at the Beal Lake Conservation Area. Through observation and photos, it was confirmed by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Arizona Game and Fish experts. Lesley Fitzpatrick indicated that the USFWS was in the process of sending a letter confirming. John noted that Reclamation had completed and sent a Biological Assessment to the USFWS for coverage of operation and maintenance activities at the Beal Lake Conservation Area. John indicated that Reclamation would be doing an effects analysis of federal covered actions on the Northern Mexican gartersnake. John noted that the Implementing Agreement outlines a process to add new species to the program. The Steering Committee would need to determine if there are effects to the gartersnake from the nonfederal actions and if there are, what process would be needed to amend the HCP. John indicated that the evaluation on federal covered actions would be done this summer. Lesley Fitzpatrick indicated that the letter noting that the species had been found would be sent out next week. Laura Vecerina committed to sending the letter out to the Steering Committee.

Planet Ranch: Evelyn Erlandsen noted that on June 10th, Judge McClennen ruled in favor of Mohave County. ADWR and Freeport filed notices of appeal to the Arizona Court of Appeals and then filed a petition to transfer the appeal to the Arizona Supreme Court. Mohave County then filed a motion with Judge McClennen requesting that he amend his decision to include an award of attorneys’ fees to the County. Once this was filed, Judge McClennen’s decision was no longer final, and the appeal and transfer petition were suspended until Judge McClennen issues a decision on Mohave County’s attorneys’ fee motion. ADWR and Freeport are planning to file a petition for special action with the Supreme Court by the end of this week requesting that the Supreme Court accept jurisdiction and review Judge McClennen’s decision even though it is not

final. ADWR has also requested Judge McClennen to stay Mohave County's motion for attorneys' fees until the special action proceeding is resolved. Mohave County has opposed that motion. Evelyn said that she would send Laura Vecerina the documents to send out to the Steering Committee.

STEERING COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

Laura noted that the next Work Group meeting will be scheduled in September and that the next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for October 28nd. Both meetings will be held in Las Vegas.

SUMMARY AND ACTION ITEMS

The Steering Committee took action on two items.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 10:03 am